

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
 - With respect to claim 20, the prior art fails to disclose and/or teach a unit for applying opening devices to packages of pourable food product that comprises in combination: a conveyor for feeding the packages along a linear path, a plurality of grippers rotatable about a common axis from a pickup station to an application and having a trajectory interfacing with the linear path and at which the opening device is applied to one of the packages, and a movable pressure member separate from the gripper and movable along the linear path and including the application station to press the opening device against the package during the feeding of the package.
 - With respect to claim 1, the prior art fails to disclose and/or teach a unit for applying opening devices to packages of pourable food product that comprises, among other things, a third conveyor carrying pressure means along a second path, wherein the third conveyor has a trajectory interfacing with the first path along at least a portion at the application station.
2. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Louis K. Huynh whose telephone number is 571-272-4462. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 8:00AM to 3:00PM.

4. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rinaldi I. Rada can be reached on 571-272-4467. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

5. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

October 21, 2009

/Louis K. Huynh/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3721